



RELEASE DATE

13/09/2024

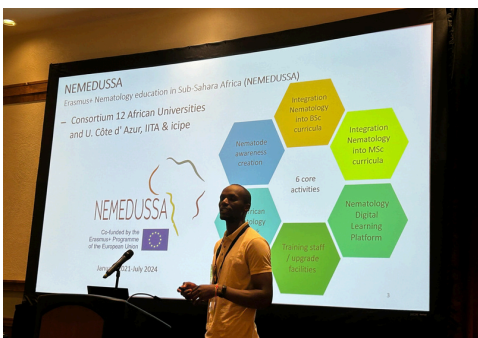
PRESS RELEASE

NEMEDUSSA PROJECT SUCCESSFULLY ENHANCES NEMATODOLOGY EDUCATION ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

A consortium of 16 institutes and universities across Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe, part of the Erasmus+ NEMEDUSSA project, have spent more than 3 years developing educational materials about nematodes, upgrading research facilities and training staff and stakeholders on studying these roundworms. Now, their hard work is paying off.



Food security in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is threatened by plant-parasitic nematodes (PPN), which cause significant crop losses. Insufficient nematology education has led to a shortage of trained professionals and practitioners, preventing effective PPN management. Including nematology in education is crucial to prepare informed graduates who can address nematology-related issues and provide sustainable solutions to communities, contributing to food security and environmental health in the region. The NEMEDUSSA project addressed this gap and increased awareness of nematodes, while expanding educational and research capacities in higher education and other institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa in this field.



CONTACT US:



www.nemedussa.ugent.be



nemedussa@ugent.be

HIGHLIGHTS



12 laboratories
upgraded



46 teaching staff
trained



BSc/MSc
nematology
course material
developed



3 workshops in 3
countries



Knowledge clips,
ebook on
Nematology
Platform online



700+ farmers,
extension workers,
school children,
students reached

The Erasmus+ project, Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE): Nematology Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (NEMEDUSSA) was a joint effort by a consortium of Universities from Sub-Sahara Africa and Europe and coordinated by Ghent University, Belgium. Building on previous education initiatives, this project enhanced the quality of nematology science through staff training and laboratory equipment upgrades. The consortium developed curricula in nematology on BSc and MSc level for the integration into existing educational programmes in English and French, for both lecturers and students. This material can now be freely downloaded as epub or .pdf.

Teaching staff from the consortium partners received specialised training on various aspects of nematology and working in the laboratory. They can now assist academic staff in teaching, develop research projects and ensure quality research in the new laboratories. The upgraded laboratory facilities included an increased number of student microscopes, lab and demonstration equipment. This in turn has augmented hands-on training and increased student and researcher numbers who use the facilities. In addition, some of the partners are using their enhanced laboratories for community service and training.

NEMEDUSSA further enhanced cooperation between nematologists in Sub-Saharan Africa by providing networking tools, training on relevant topics in nematology and sharing good practices in education, while promoting collaboration with a focus on young nematologists. The Pan-African Nematology Network (PANEMA) was established to facilitate this cooperation. PANEMA hosted 3 workshops in Kenya, South Africa and Benin to reach as wide an audience as possible. Dissemination activities were aimed at a range of different stakeholders such as farmers, extension service workers, policy makers, students and private and public sector. These stakeholders not only participated in the PANEMA workshops, but also benefitted from the student clubs established at partner universities and attended specialised trainings on nematodes offered by partners.

This project (2021-2024) was co-funded by the European Union (Erasmus+ KA2 CBHE) and VLIR-UOS, and was linked to the objectives of the Erasmus+ Programme. The work of this project was supported by 36 associated partners from the private and public sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as INRAE and Syngenta. The Erasmus+ Programme encourages cooperation between the EU and Partner Countries and support eligible Partner Countries in addressing challenges in the management and governance of their higher education institutions.

Although the project has ended, its impact on partners and stakeholders is clear. The project output will continue to be available for download on the project website and on the Nematology Digital Learning Platform (NDLP).

ENDS



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



Cofinancé par le programme Erasmus+ de l'Union européenne



Ghent University (Belgium) coordinated NEMEDUSSA, in cooperation with:

- University Abomey-Calavi, Benin
- University of Parakou, Benin
- Haramaya University, Ethiopia
- Jimma University, Ethiopia
- Kenyatta University, Kenya
- Moi University, Kenya
- International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kenya
- International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Kenya
- Ahmadu-Bello University, Nigeria
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- North West University, South Africa
- Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- Makerere University, Uganda
- Muni University, Uganda
- University Côte d'Azur, France

